

8 October 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

Telephone conversation from San Diego reports today's issue of the San Diego Union carries a by-line story by Gene Fuson substantially as follows:

"Now I can tell the whole story of Sabio Gallo and how he claimed he met Laurentia Beria in a deal to get him sanctuary in the United States.

"I do not know if the story is true or false.

"I do not know whether Beria is alive or dead.

"Gallo asserts he actually met Beria. Gallo is a Nicaraguan who has dabbled in revolutions and international politics.

"Gallo was questioned by Spanish police for three days. This was Gallo's statement to the Spanish national police:

"'I made contact with a Spanish representative of Beria in Gibralter.' (The rest pertains to covert means by which the meeting was arranged.) Gallo stated that the contact took him to an automobile in Gibralter in which Beria was seated. Gallo said Beria ordered him to get into the car and asked Gallo for guarantees of sanctuary in the United States. Gallo said he could not give any guarantees. Beria, through a Spanish interpreter, according to Gallo, said:

"'Tell them you saw me and because of the interest they have in me they will fix the arrangements.'

"Gallo left to meet again a few days later. Gallo returned to Malaga. He stopped en route at Marbella at a farm of Gonzales Goicueta. Gallo said he told Gonzales the whole story because he wanted to take Beria away in a submarine from the Gonzales farm which is on the coast. Gallo telephoned the author of this story, Fuson, at San Diego. Gallo said he informed the Spanish contact that he had talked with Fuson and that Fuson would be there in Spain within 72 hours. Arrangements were made by devious methods for another meeting in Gibralter. On September 19, Gallo went back to the Gonzales farm and told the people there of his discussion with Fuson in San Diego. Included in the discussion at the farm were: Countess Pillar, Luca de Pina Sagalde, her two daughters, and Rosa Gonzales. While Gallo was talking to the ladies he received a telephone call from Fuson in Washington and after talking with Fuson, he said he told the assembly about the entire arrangement and that he had the full cooperation of the American Government.

"The ladies were no longer afraid because they thought this was for the good of Spain.

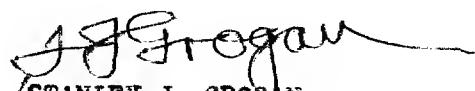
"On 20 September Gallo received a telegram from Fuson saying he would arrive at 6:30 p.m., 21 September at the Palace Hotel in Madrid to make contact with Beria. He said he discussed the whole matter with Luca Arte Luca de Tema, a director of the Spanish newspaper ABC on September 22 while Gallo went from Malaga to Madrid to the office of the commissioner of political police in Spain named Regengo. Later with Fuson and Regengo he went to the office of General Raphel Hierro, central headquarters of national police. 'Hierro assured me of full cooperation and placed me under guard. I was to attempt another contact; I told the police of the arrangements. I failed to make this contact and the police began to question me.' (That ends Gallo's statement to Fuson.)

"Fuson adds, 'This ends the story that Gallo told me that he had told the Spanish police. After this Gallo received several unexplained phone calls. There was no question in my mind that Gallo was afraid; whether of police or retribution from another source, I do not know. He gave me the impression that he was fearful of his life. Gallo stayed locked up in his room.'

"After he returned to Malaga he was questioned for three days by the police, but he would not cooperate with them. The statements I gave above by Gallo is the statement he gave to the police after his third day of questioning. All previous information he had given was false, he admitted and he said he did so because he was trying to protect the Gonzales family.

"Fuson then adds that the story set in motion the intelligence services throughout the world, but that the wildness of the story would not permit any government working on it to make such an admission, but behind the scenes there was great activity regarding Gallo, his statements, and the facts of his life.

"Gallo's story has not been repudiated and the hunt for Beria still goes on."


STANLEY J. GROGAN